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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,580	01/09/2002	Timothy C. Loose	47079-0130	6596

7590

09/30/2003

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EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/042,580

Applicant(s)

LOOSE, TIMOTHY C.

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

Art Unit

3714

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17 & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gomez et al. (US Publication Number 2002/0160826).

Claims 1& 11: Gomez teaches a method of generating display indicia on a gaming machine in synchronization with an adjacent gaming machine. (Paragraphs 0007 & 0009) The gaming machine includes a display (12a-n). Gomez describes the gaming machine giving a signal indicating that a predetermined event has occurred. (Paragraph 0008) Thus Gomez's machine inherently has an emitter. Since the signal must be received in order to be acted upon, Gomez's machine must also inherently have a sensor. Gomez teaches that the machines may be linked together (paragraph 0012) in a peer-to-peer network. In that embodiment, each machine must detect the first signal from the adjacent machine at the sensor and in response to the first signal, generate the display indicia on the display and emit a second signal from the emitter. (Paragraph 0006)

Claims 2, 4, 12 & 14: Gomez teaches detecting a game-related event in a game executed on the machine and in response to the game-related event, emitting the second signal

from the emitter. I.e., a bonus condition may start the display of attraction mechanisms where each machine signals its neighbor to start the display. (Paragraph 0008)

Claims 3 & 13: Gomez teaches generating other display indicia on the display in response to the game-related event. I.e., the bonus condition causes the attraction mechanism display.

Claims 5 & 15: Gomez teaches that the display may include a plurality of lamps that may sequentially flash. (Paragraphs 0014, 0007, 0022) The display of a message in a dot-matrix display would cause the lamps to sequentially flash.

Claims 7 & 17: Gomez teaches that the display may include a video display, and the step of generating the display indicia may include displaying an image of a moving object. (Paragraph 0035)

Claims 8 & 18: Gomez teaches signals being emitted from each gaming machine to an adjacent machine. (Paragraph 0012) Thus, the first signal from the adjacent machine is emitted from an emitter on the adjacent machine. Since the sensor is on the machine receiving the signal from the adjacent machine, the sensor must be proximate to (i.e., close to or adjacent to) the emitter on the adjacent machine.

Claim 9: Claim 9 is a combination of claims 1 & 8 above, which see.

Claim 10: Gomez teaches a row of n machines. (Fig 1) Each machine detects a signal from the adjacent machine, displays the attraction feature, and propagates the signal down the chain. (Paragraphs 0006-0012) Thus Gomez teaches detecting the second signal at a sensor on a third of the machines adjacent to the second of the machines, the sensor on the third of the machines being proximate to the emitter on the second of the

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machines; and in response to detecting the second signal, generating display indicia on the display of the third of the machines.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6 & 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gomez as applied to claims 1 or 11 above, and further in view of Pease et al. (US Patent Number 5,759,102).

Claims 6 & 16: Gomez teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Gomez teaches a peer-to-peer network (paragraph 0012), but does not teach the physical aspects of the network – i.e., how it communicates. Pease teaches a wireless, infrared network. (Col 4, 12-23) An infrared network uses light (infrared) signals emitted by a light source and detected by photo sensors. Infrared networks are well known to the art. They allow communications between devices without wires. This increases the flexibility of the network's physical configuration. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used the teaching of Pease to implement an infrared network (with light signals emitted by a light source and detected by photo sensors) connecting gaming machines as described in Gomez in order to increase the flexibility of the network's physical layout.

Conclusion


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

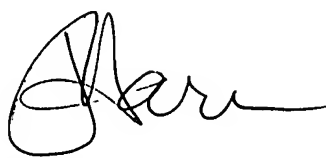
Reference Name	US Patent Number	Applicability
Franchi	5,770,533	Infrared network
Brune et al.	5,851,148	Infrared network
Takemoto et al	5,472,195	Linked bonus display

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (703) 305-3319. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on (703) 308-1806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.


cbc


JESSICA HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER